



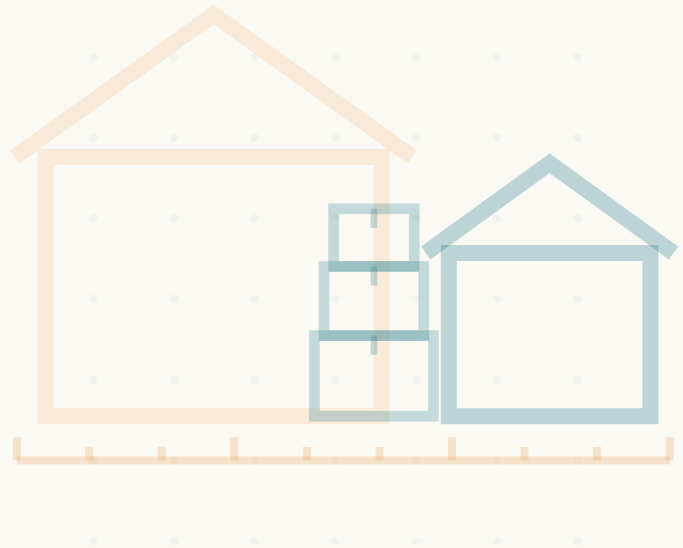
ARDENT WORKSHOP

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Downsizing — The Sort List

One room at a time: keep, gift, sell, donate, or let it go.

Free · from Ardent Workshop



FIND OUT WHAT FITS BEFORE THE TRUCK DOES.

ardentworkshop.com

Sort one room at a time

Downsizing goes wrong when it is attempted as one enormous job. It is not one job — it is a room, repeated. Print a copy of the blank sheet in this pack for each room, take it in there with you, and decide with the thing in your hand. A list made at the kitchen table is a list of what somebody remembers owning, which is about half of it.

The six decisions

The pile	What goes on it
TAKE	It goes on the truck — and it needs a room at the other end.
GIFT	Promised to a named person, with a date they'll collect it.
SELL	There is a real buyer at a price worth the effort. Fewer things qualify than families expect — ask a local estate-sale company what is moving before you count on a number.
DONATE	Clean and working. Charities that collect often book weeks ahead.
DISPOSE	Budget for the removal rather than hoping someone wants it.
UNDECIDED	An honest answer, and a temporary one. Count them.

TWO RULES THAT PREVENT MOST OF THE ARGUMENTS

Group generously. “Books, shelves 1 to 4” is one line; forty individual books is a bad afternoon.

And ask in writing, with a date on it. “I’ll take that someday” is how a garage stays full for two years — a collection date turns it into an answer, and the person who does not collect by the date has told you theirs.

What a finished room looks like

Here is one room done, from the worked example in the full binder — a fictional family moving out of a four-bedroom house. The dining room earns its place as the example because it is where downsizing most often stalls: the china cabinet, the formal service for twelve, and a table that seats ten in a home that now seats four.

What it is	Qty	Decision	Goes to	Notes
China cabinet	1	Take	Living room	It will not fit the dining area. This is the argument.
Dining table, extends to ten	1	Sell	—	
Dining chairs, set of eight	8	Sell	—	Selling with the table.
Drop-leaf table	1	Take	Dining area	
Dining chairs, set of four	4	Take	Dining area	
The good china, service for twelve	3	Undecided	—	Nobody has said yes yet. Ask again with a date on it.
Silver and serving pieces	2	Take	Walk-in closet	
Sideboard	1	Take	not chosen yet	Decided to keep it and then found there is no wall for it. The Flag column has been saying so for two weeks.

NOTICE WHAT PAPER CANNOT ANSWER

5 of these 8 lines say Take — and one of them has nowhere to go yet. That is the question a sort on paper always leaves open: **will the things you're keeping actually fit the new home?**

Answering it means sizing every item and totaling it against each new room's real capacity, which is exactly what the full binder does.

Your room

One line per thing, or per group of like things. Print one of these per room.

Room: _____ Date: _____

What it is	Qty	Take / Gift / Sell / Donate / Dispose	Goes to	Notes

When the sort runs into the arithmetic

This sheet does the part you can do on paper. Sooner or later every downsizing move hits the part you cannot: a four-bedroom house holds several times what a two-bedroom apartment holds, and until somebody works out how much more, every conversation about the china cabinet is a conversation about feelings with no facts in it.

The **Senior Downsizing & Move-Management Binder** does that arithmetic. Every item resolves to cubic feet through a built-in guide of 41 household size classes, so you never measure a sofa. Everything you keep is totaled against the real capacity of the real room it is going to — every room reading **Fits**, **Tight**, or **Over**. And the move is priced off that same volume, including what every hundred cubic feet you release saves. It adds a 42-task timeline that counts back from your move date, 38 organizations that need the new address, and quote, contact, and document trackers — twelve tabs across Excel, Google Sheets and LibreOffice, plus three PDF guides. [See it at ardentworkshop.com](https://ardentworkshop.com) ›

A planning aid you keep — not legal, tax, financial, real-estate, or medical advice, and not an appraisal. The example is fictional. Once it is filled in, a sort list is a record of what an older adult owns and what it is worth, so keep your copy where you keep other private household papers. © Ardent Workshop LLC — free to use; please don't resell or redistribute.